

IN THE CLAIMS

1-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended): A database for use in managing a pricing agent in a computer, comprising:
a pricing profile table comprising a set of profile records, each record identifying a URL site, a list of included items, a scan interval, and a pointer to a site template;
a site template table comprising a set of site templates, each site template comprising lexical instructions for parsing a data stream to identify given data; and
a price table comprising a set of pricing records, each record identifying an item name, an associated price value, and at least one source.

18. (Currently Amended): The database [as described in Claim 17] of claim 17 further including a threshold table comprising a set of threshold records, each record identifying a threshold type, a threshold value, and a threshold comparison operator.

19. (Currently Amended): The database [as described in Claim 17] of claim 17 wherein each profile record further includes a list of excluded items.

20. (Original): A computer, comprising:

a browser;

a database comprising:

a pricing profile table comprising a set of profile records, each record identifying a URL site, a list of included items, a scan interval, and a pointer to a site template;

a site template table comprising a set of site templates, each site template comprising lexical instructions for parsing a data stream to identify given data; and

a price table comprising a set of pricing records, each record identifying an item name, and associated price value, and at least one source; and

code executable in the browser during processing of a given pricing profile record at the scan interval for parsing data retrieved from the URL site according to the site template to generate a data record for each included item.

21. (New): The database of claim 18, wherein price data for an item name is collected over a given period of time to produce historical data.
22. (New): The database of claim 17, wherein the database receives queries from a pricing agent.
23. (New): The database of claim 22, wherein the pricing agent provides data to the database using the set of profile records.
24. (New): The database of claim 17, wherein the pricing table provides an identification of URL sites to be scanned for data.
25. (New): The database of claim 18, wherein the threshold table indicates when a threshold condition is reached to trigger a threshold event
26. (New): The database of claim 25, wherein threshold event is a sending of an email.
27. (New): The database of claim 25, wherein the site templates include matching criteria.
28. (New): The database of claim 25, wherein each site template includes a scanning template that indicates who to scan for item names and corresponding prices.